

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06**

Site Name: Anaconda Co. Bluewater Uranium **CERCLIS ID#:** NMD007106894

Alias Site Names:

Address:

City/County or Parish/State/Zip Code:

Cibola County/New Mexico

Report Type, Date, and Author:

Preliminary Reassessment Report

RECOMMENDATION:

☐ 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned under Superfund (NFRAP)

☒ 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund

☐ PA ☐ HRS ☒ SSI ☐ RA ☐ ESI ☐ RI/FS ☐ SI

To be performed by:

Other:

Priority: ☐ High ☒ Low

3. Action Deferred ☐ RCRA ☐ NRC

4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) ☐ Yes ☐ No

NOTIFY AUTHORITY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> SMCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> NRC	<input type="checkbox"/> UIC
<input type="checkbox"/> RCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Trustee	<input type="checkbox"/> SPCC
<input type="checkbox"/> TSCA	<input type="checkbox"/> State/Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> CERCLA Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> CAA	<input type="checkbox"/> NPDES	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facility	

SEND SSSR COPIES TO:

☐ 6SF-AC ☐ 6WQ-SP ☐ ATSDR ☐ State Agency ☐ Tribal Agency

DISCUSSION:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a Preliminary Reassessment at the Anaconda Company Bluewater Uranium Millsite located in Cibola County, New Mexico. The site is approximately 3,300 acre area located in the southwest corner of the San Mateo Creek Basin. The Anaconda Copper Company operated uranium milling operations on the site between 1953 and 1982. Mill processes produced acidic radioactive tailings which were stored in onsite tailings ponds. Milling waste products that were discharged to the tailings ponds include sulfuric acid, iron, manganese and aluminum. Other waste sources on site include: a 320 acre main disposal cell, which was the mill's main tailings pile from the acid leach circuit, is covered with radon cover and rock erosion protection; a 65 acre carbonate tailings cell; a 45 acre ore stockpile area; two, 1 acre landfills; disposal cell #1; a PCB contaminated waste area; and an asbestos disposal area. In 1959, Anaconda drilled a disposal well approximately one mile downgradient of the tailings pond. This injection well operated between 1960 and 1977. Within the first 5 years of operation, approximately 500 million gallons of waste water was disposed of. The area around the site is sparsely populated. The site is under the jurisdiction of Title II of the Uranium Mill Tailing Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA). There are approximately ninety six private water wells, one municipal water system and four wells regulated by the New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau within a four mile radius of the site. NMED did not evaluate the soil, surface water or air pathways during this investigation because the tailings and waste materials have been covered with low-permeability barriers. It is recommended that NMED conduct a Site Inspection at the site, with the primary focus being on the ground water pathway.

APPROVALS:



857192

Report Reviewed by:

LaDonna Turner/R6/USEPA/US
(Site Assessment Manager 6SF-RA)

☒ Approved

☐ Disapproved

LaDonna Turner

Disposition Recommended by:

Jon Rauscher/R6/USEPA/US
(Team Leader 6SF-RA)

☒ Approved

☐ Disapproved

Jon Rauscher

08/21/2008